Idle Jute Mills in the Country

3975. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Jute Mills in the organised sector in the country lying idle at present;

(b) the number of jute mills permitted during the last three years to retrench their workers ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to rehabilitate the workers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected.

Commission on Bonded Labour

3976. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a final decision on setting up of a commission on Bonded labour has been taken; and

(b) if so, details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) The proposal to constitute a National Commission Bonded Labour has been under examination. The Government now consider that setting up of the above Commission is not necessary at this stage and what is required is better implementation of the provisions of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976. To ensure better implementation of the provisions of the Act, more effecive monitoring of progress has been envisaged and State Governments have been requested to effectively implemant the Act and furnish monthly reports to the Central Government regarding the progress made.

Fraud in Regional Provident Fund Commissioner's Office

3977. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whtether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitems published Kananda Daily in Bangalore on 26th January, 1992 regarding f aud in Regional Provident Fund Commissioner's Office pertaining to Provident Fund accounts of N.G.E.F., employees;

(b) whether Government have received any complaint in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Employees Provident Fund authorities have identified a few cases of fraud involving an amount of Rs. 87,400/- (Rupees Eighty Seven thousand and four hundred). The matter is under investigation.

Corruption charges against protector of Emigrants

3978. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that CBI has found a protector of Emigrants in his Ministry guilty of corruption; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken against the guilty ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) Cases of alleged acceptance illegal gratification against four official of the office of the Protector of Emigrants Bombay, have been registered by the CBI Bombay. The matter is being investigated by the CBI. Appropriate action will be taken against the concerned person(s) on receipt of the report from the CBI.

Central Legislation for construction workers

3979. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2237 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th December, 1991 and state by when Government propose to bring forward a Central Legislation providing safety provisions for workers engaged in building and construction workers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : Proposal for enactment of a Central Legislation for Building and Construction Workers is at an advanced stage of consideration of Government.

Bonded Labour in the Country

3980. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bonded labourers identified and freed so far, State-wise ?

(b) the number of them rehabilitated State-wise;

(c) the steps taken to free and rehabilitate remaining bonded labour; and

(d) the details of policies and programmes taken up to solve the problem of bonded labour ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) A statement is annexed. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) Under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 identification and release of bonded labourers and rehabilitation of bonded labourers is the direct responsibility of the State Governments concerned. For the propose of the identification of bonded laboureres and their release from debt bondage, necessary powers have been conferred on the District Magistrate of every District in the Country. The Ministry of Labour has been advising the State Government from time to time, to conduct period surveys through their existing agencis for identification of bonded labourers.

To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in rehabilitation of bonded labourers, a Centrally sponsored Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Labour in 1978-79 under which the State Governments are provided Central financial assistance on matching grant (50 : 50) basis for rehabilitation of bonded labourers. The Scheme envisages provisions of rehabilitation grant upto a ceiling limited of Rs. 4000/- per bonded labourer (raised to Rs. 6,250/- w.e.f. 1-2-1986) half of which is given as Central Share. In order to ensure that the bonded labourers are rehabilitated permanently and do not slip back into bondage, the State Governments have been advised to integrate the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for rehabilitation of bonded labourer with other anti-poverty programme of the State Governments.

Statement

Name of the State	Number of Bonded Labourers as on 31-3-1991			Balance BLs available for rehabilitation as on 31-3-91	Target for rehabilitation of BLs. during 1981-92
	Identified	Rehabilitated	Not available for rehabilitation		
1. Andhra Pradesh	35810	25397	..	10413	864
2. Bihar	12525	11378	1116	31	31
3. Karnataka	68876	53835	8611	6430	2000
4. Madhya Pradesh	12535	11236	909*	390	390
5. Maharashtra	1382	1300	82*	..	..
6. Orissa	49913	46654	3186	73	73
7. Rajasthan	7300	7164	98	38	38
8. Tamil Nadu	38347	38015	60	272	272
9. Uttar Pradesh	27489	27048	..	441	441
10. Gujarat	64	64	..	..	..
11. Haryana	544	21	523**	..	..
12. Kerala	823	83	..	..	..
TOAL	2,55,608	2,22,935	14,585	18,088	4109

NOTE : The above date has been completed on the basis of the information available and as given by the representatives of the State Governments in the meeting held on 22.4.1991.

†893 bonded labourers have repatriated to their home States and 16 bonded labourers have died .

*The Government of Maharashtra has stated that 82 bonded labourers do not require rehabilitation assistance.

**The break-up of 523 bonded labourers as reported by the Harayana State is as follows —124 BLs. have left of their own, 96 are not willing to go from the Haryana State, 2 BLs. died of natural death and 321 BLs. have been sent to their home States *viz.* Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan, Gurarat, Orissa, and Maharashtra. 1 BL is still employed in the office of the Secretary, Red Cross, Gurgaon.

National debate on the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee

3981. SHARIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to initiate a national debate on the recommendations of the Ramanujam Committee with regard to National Renewal Fund Exit Policy and Industrial Relation Bill; and

(b) whether it is proposed to discuss these subjects with the Central Trad e Unions and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b) The Ramanujam Committee was constituted to formulate specific proposals for a new industrial relations bill. The recommendations of the Committee on a number of important issues are not unanimous. The Conference of State Labour Ministers which was held in February, 1992 considered the report and recommended that a group of five Labour Ministers should be formed to examine the areas of disagreement in the report with a veiw to arriving at a consensus and to submit its recommendations to the Indian Labour Conference. The Ministry has accordingly set up a committee under the chairmanship of Shri P.A. Sangma, Minister of State, comprising the Labour Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

The Ministry of Labour has also constituted a Special Tripartite Committee to examine the effects of the new industrial policy on problems affecting labour and related matters and to make recommendations. It has also reconstituted a number of tripartite in Industrial Committees in respect of industries in which sickness is endemic.

Educated Unemployed and Landless Labour in the Country

3982. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARAYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State :

(a) the number of unemployed as per the live register of Employment Exchanges all over the country during the last five years including the current year ;

(b) the number of landless labour in the country and how much do they earn on an average ; and

(c) whether Government have any scheme to eradicate such a volume of unemployment ?

THE DEPUTY MIMISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SING GHATOWAR) : (a) The number of job-seekers on the live register of Employment Exhchanges, not all of whom are necessarily unemployed, in the country during last five years are as below :—

Year	Number (in thousands)
1987	30247.3
1988	30050.2
1989	32776.2
1990	34631.8
1991 (latest available)	36299.7